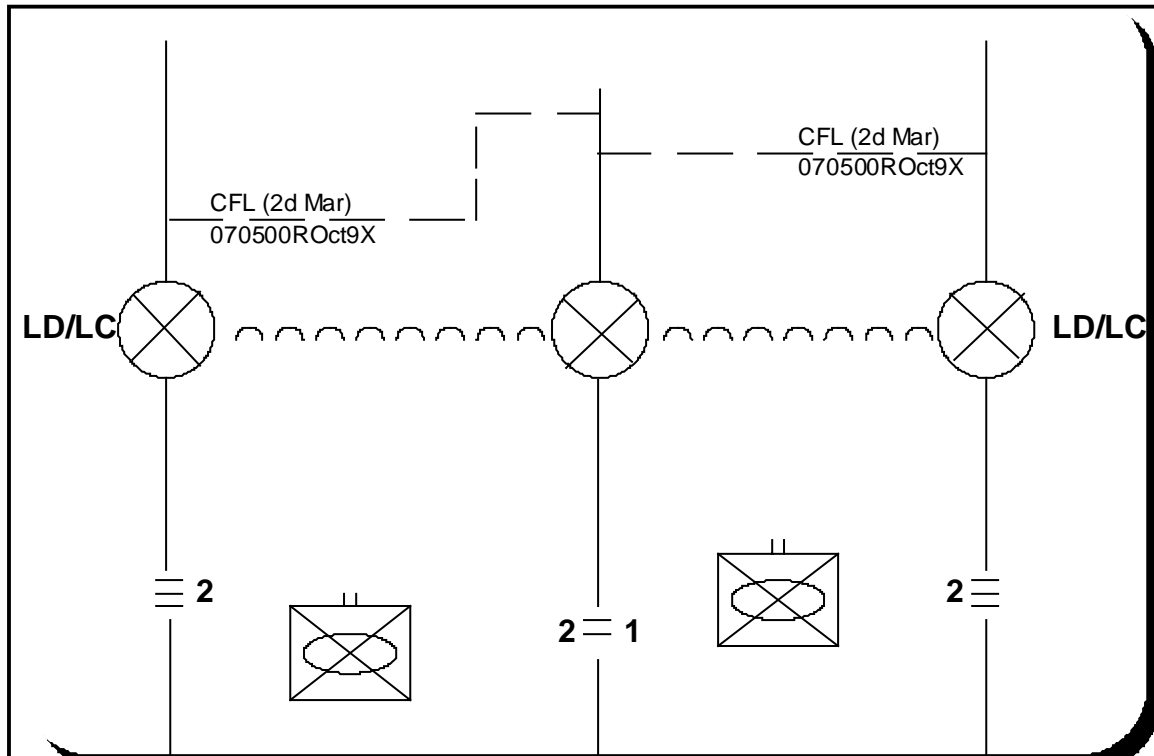


Answer.



Fire Support Coordination Line (FSCL): The FSCL is a line established by the appropriate land or amphibious commander to ensure coordination of fire not under the commander's control but which may affect current tactical operations. The FSCL is used to coordinate fires of air, ground, or sea-based weapon systems using any type of ammunition against surface targets. The FSCL should follow well-defined terrain features. The establishment of the FSCL must be coordinated with the appropriate tactical air commander and other supporting elements. Supporting elements may attack targets forward of the FSCL, without prior coordination with the land or amphibious force commander, provided the attack will not produce adverse surface effects on, or to the rear of, the line. Attacks against surface targets behind this line must be coordinated with the appropriate land or amphibious force commander. Forces attacking targets beyond an FSCL must inform all affected commanders in sufficient time to allow necessary reaction to avoid fratricide both in the air and on the ground. In exceptional circumstances the inability to conduct this coordination will not preclude the attack of targets beyond the FSCL. The FSCL is not a boundary.

Purpose. The primary purpose of the FSCL is to provide a measure for coordination between land or amphibious force air, ground and sea-based fires from other supporting elements without endangering friendly troops on the ground or requiring additional coordination with the establishing headquarters. The FSCL serves several purposes:

- w It facilitates the attack of targets beyond the FSCL.
- w It provides ground commanders with sufficient control of aircraft short of the FSCL to ensure troop safety.
- w It maximizes employment of weapons where they are most efficient, and provides aviation commanders, air control agencies, and pilots with sufficient information to identify the area in which control or coordination is required before aircraft can attack ground targets.

Establishment. In amphibious operations, the FSCL is normally established by the Commander Landing Force (CLF) after coordination with the Commander Amphibious Task Force (CATF). When air forces external to the amphibious task force are supporting the amphibious operation, the CLF coordinates with the supporting forces through the CATF. When Marine Corps forces operate independently on land, the FSCL is established by the MAGTF Commander. In joint or combined operations, the FSCL may be established by headquarters above the MAGTF level. Prior to establishment, consultation should be made with the appropriate ground and air elements.

Location. In addition to having the FSCL follow well-defined terrain features easily identifiable from the air, the positioning of the FSCL must consider the tactical situation. This should include the scheme of maneuver or plan of defense, weather, terrain, type and source of aircraft, and overall flexibility of maneuver and fire support. A key factor is the forward line of troops (FLOT). The FSCL is normally positioned closer to the FLOT in the defense than in the offense; however, the exact positioning is situationally dependent.

Dissemination. The FSCL is disseminated by the establishing land or amphibious force commander to the fire support elements of subordinate, adjacent, and higher headquarters, as required. It is further disseminated at each level of command, including the establishing command, to all concerned air and indirect fire control agencies. (ref JP 3-0, Doctrine for joint operations.)